

Cabinet

13 July 2023

Change of Age Range Brownsover Community Infant School and Long Lawford & Nursery Hill Primary Schools

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. approves the change of age range at Brownsover Infant School from 3-7 to 4-7 from September 2023
2. approves the change of age range at Long Lawford Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 from September 2023
3. approves the change of age range at Nursery Hill Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 from September 2023

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The proposed changes at Brownsover Community Infant School and Long Lawford & Nursery Hill Primary Schools, as outlined in section 3 are a consequence of national funding levels with many families entitled to 30 hours per week of funded early education, alongside the demand for funded places for eligible 2 year olds.
- 1.2 Maintained schools with a maintained nursery class see these places usually created in conjunction with the Local Authority with a designated PAN and specific age range allocated. Any changes to the delivery would usually be made in consultation with the Local Authority e.g to increase place numbers. (Maintained nursery classes used to receive higher levels of early education funding. However, this is no longer the case).
- 1.3 School run, governor led provision (s27) sees a service run by the governors for the benefit of their local community, e.g. nursery provision, and can include services for children that are not pupils of the school. This model provides greater flexibility and autonomy for the school who can flex the delivery to meet local need. Children in a maintained nursery class are registered pupils of the school and are reported via the school census. Under governor-led provision the children are reported on the Early Years Census and are not registered pupils.

- 1.4 In both cases there is a statutory obligation for the services to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which specifies the learning and development requirements and delivery requirements e.g. staffing and premises.
- 1.5 Parents are increasingly seeking more flexibility from nursery places, to support them with work commitments. This is difficult to manage when nursery places are offered via a maintained nursery class, where there is less scope for flexibility.
- 1.6 The proposed change is in the legal operating model from maintained to fully governor run for all early years places - this will make the service more flexible and cost efficient for the school to meet the needs of the community and demand for 2, 3 and 4 year old places. The change would enable each school to rebalance staffing to become more cost effective.
- 1.7 There will be no material change to the relevant schools' operation – in each case, both school and nursery will continue to be governed by the same board and led by the same head teacher.
- 1.8 The plans propose that the Early Years provision will be teacher directed as opposed to teacher led. There is the expectation therefore that an EYFS teacher/lead will have oversight of the quality of all early years provision at the school. This is to ensure there will be no intended reduction in the quality of provision as a result of the proposed change.
- 1.9 Any proposed changes to the age range of a community school must be carried out in accordance with the Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Education, '*Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools*'. The guidance requires the local authority to undertake a statutory consultation for a period of at least 4 weeks.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no financial implications for Warwickshire County Council.
- 2.2 The three schools concerned may benefit financially from being able to offer a more flexible and comprehensive early years provision to parents.

3. Proposals for Prescribed Alteration

Brownsover Community Infant School

- 3.1 Brownsover Community Infant School currently operates two separate provisions at its site for 2, 3 and eligible 4 year olds: a Nursery class and a Pre-School. School Governors want to close the Nursery class and accommodate all those pupils in the Pre-School, to achieve greater flexibility in their provision.

- 3.2 The school has recently consulted to transition from a two-form entry infant school to a one-form entry primary school. As a consequence, approval has already been received to extend the school's current 3-7 age range to 3-11 from September 2026.
- 3.3 Therefore, this proposal is twofold. To change the age range from 3-7 to 4-7 from September 2023, then change the age range from 4-7 to 4-11 in September 2026.
- 3.4 The published admission number (PAN) for the main school will not be affected by these proposals.
- 3.5 The PAN for the maintained nursery class will cease to exist, as nursery provision will be offered in a more flexible way, according to parental demand. All nursery provision for 2,3 and eligible 4 year olds will be provided via Community Facility Powers, at the existing Pre-School, under the direction of the School Governors from September 2023.
- 3.6 There will be no reduction in, nor material change to, the service provided by the school. The EYFS teacher/lead will have oversight of the quality of all early years provision at the school. This is to ensure there will be no intended reduction in the quality of provision as a result of the proposed change.
- 3.7 It is the school's intention for the nursery to be teacher directed. This will be done by the EY lead/DHT who will have weekly allocated time to support planning and preparation as well as weekly teaching time within the nursery. The nursery groups will be lead on a daily basis by 2 SEYE, supported by 2 additional Level 3 staff and another level 2 TA. Each child will continue to have a keyworker (minimum level 3), and all reports, assessments and activities will be monitored by EY lead. Their continuing teaching commitment will enable them to oversee day-to-day provision and progress to ensure that it continues to meet high standards that the provision already provides.
- 3.8 A statutory consultation was undertaken between 5 June and 2 July 2023, during which 2 responses were received. Both responders strongly agreed with the proposal (a more detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 4).

Long Lawford Primary School

- 3.9 Long Lawford Primary School currently operates a nursery class for 3 and 4 year olds. School Governors want to close the Nursery class and accommodate all those pupils in a newly developed school operated setting.
- 3.10 The proposal is to change the age range at Long Lawford Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 from September 2023. The published admission number (PAN) for the main school will not be affected by these proposals.
- 3.11 The PAN for the maintained nursery class will cease to exist, as nursery provision will be offered in a more flexible way, according to parental demand. All nursery provision will be provided via Community Facility Powers, at the

newly developed Pre-School, under the direction of the School Governors from September 2023.

- 3.12 There will be no reduction in, nor material change to, the service provided by the school. The EYFS teacher/lead will have oversight of the quality of all early years provision at the school. This is to ensure there will be no intended reduction in the quality of provision as a result of the proposed change.
- 3.13 If the proposal is agreed, the school would maintain a teacher in the pre-school setting. The teacher would teach in the unit in the morning and a L3 TA (supported by a L2 TA and apprentice TA) would deliver the session in the afternoon. All sessions would be planned by a qualified teacher, who would maintain oversight of the provision. Additionally, the Early Years Leader would maintain oversight of admissions and ratios, which have been established this year and would continue next year. The teacher and L3 TA would work closely together, and the teacher would maintain responsibility for assessment data also. All EYFS staff receive regular EYFS training and would continue to complete monitoring exercises throughout the year and across the school.
- 3.14 A statutory consultation was undertaken between 5 June and 2 July 2023, during which 5 responses were received. Of the 5 responses, 3 strongly agreed with the proposal and one agreed. The remaining responder strongly disagreed with the proposal as they were concerned that there wasn't enough time to find alternative provision. They misunderstood that closing the nursery would not mean removing the early years provision but that it would be delivered in a different way (a more detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 4).

Nursery Hill Primary School

- 3.15 Nursery Hill Primary School currently operates a nursery class for 3 and 4 year olds. School Governors want to close the Nursery class and accommodate all those pupils in a newly developed school operated setting, to achieve greater flexibility in their provision and creating places for funded 2 year olds.
- 3.16 The proposal is to change the age range at Nursery Hill Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 from September 2023. The published admission number (PAN) for the main school will not be affected by these proposals.
- 3.17 The PAN for the maintained nursery class will cease to exist, as nursery provision will be offered in a more flexible way, according to parental demand. All nursery provision for 2,3 and eligible 4 year olds will be provided via Community Facility Powers, at the school run nursery, under the direction of the School Governors from September 2023.
- 3.18 There will be no reduction in, nor material change to, the service provided by the school. The EYFS teacher/lead will have oversight of the quality of all

early years provision at the school. This is to ensure there will be no intended reduction in the quality of provision as a result of the proposed change.

- 3.19 It is the school's intention for the nursery to be teacher directed. This will be done by the EY lead who will have weekly allocated time to support planning and preparation as well as weekly teaching time within the nursery. The nursery groups will be led on a daily basis by Level 3 staff. Each child will continue to have a key person (minimum level 3), and all reports and activities will be monitored by EY lead. The teacher and L3 TAs would work closely together, and the teacher would maintain responsibility for assessment data. Additionally, the Early Years Leader would maintain oversight of admissions and ratios, which have been established this year and would continue next year. All EYFS staff receive regular EYFS training and would continue to complete monitoring exercises throughout the year and across the school. Their continuing teaching commitment will enable them to oversee day-to-day provision and progress to ensure that it continues to meet high standards that the provision already provides.
- 3.20 A statutory consultation was undertaken between 5 June and 2 July 2023, during which 0 responses were received.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 As there will be no associated change to the numbers of pupils attending the schools or early years settings, the location or transport arrangements, there are considered to be no environmental implications.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 If approved, the age range change for each school will be effective from 1 September 2023.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Consultation document for Brownsover Community Infant School
Appendix 2 Consultation document for Long Lawford Primary School
Appendix 3 Consultation document for Nursery Hill Primary School
Appendix 4 Consultation Responses

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Nikki Daly, Admissions and Home to School Transport Coordinator	nikkidaly@warwickshire.gov.uk
Director	Johnny Kyriacou, Director of Education	johnnykyriacou@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director	Nigel Minns, Executive Director for People	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education	cllrkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Members: Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Margaret Bell

Other Members: Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Barbara Brown